

**Frederick County Department of
Solid Waste Management**

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PRESS RELEASE

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LOCAL STUDENTS AWARDED IN RECYCLING ESSAY CONTEST *Frederick County Celebrates Earth Day by Rewarding Young Recyclers*

FREDERICK, MD —The Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management has selected the winners of its recent Recycling Essay Contest for local K-12 students. The contest and the announcement of the winning entries are part of the county's acknowledgment of Earth Day, the international recognition event for environmental issues, which occurs each year on April 22.

The Recycling Essay Contest challenged students to show their support for and understanding of recycling by writing essays on specific themes. Over 400 entries were received from local public, private and home school students, with individual entries and entire classes participating in the project. The winners are:

- Grades K-2 category - Grace Steffensen (*Middletown Primary*)
- Grades 3-5 category and Grand Prize for elementary grades – Mary Warner (*Trinity School of Frederick*)
- Grades 6-8 category and Grand Prize for secondary grades – Sophie Jordan (*Urbana Middle School*)
- Grades 9-12 category – Huai Cing (*Frederick High*)

All four winning essays will be printed in the Frederick News Post on Tuesday, April 22. Each student will be awarded a certificate and a prize made possible by grant funding received from Waste Management Recycle America.

The Department of Solid Waste Management extends its thanks to the students, educators and others in the community who were involved in this program. Assistant Superintendant Lori Finafrock commented, "It was very enjoyable to read the words of our local students, who gave serious thought to the topics and showed enthusiastic support for recycling and waste reduction endeavors. We commend those who participated and appreciate the ideas and the time students spent considering these important issues."

The award announcements coincide with the 44th annual celebration of Earth Day, a worldwide event to demonstrate support for environmental awareness. Locally, the Department of Solid Waste Management is responsible for an array of integrated solid waste management initiatives and waste-reduction strategies, including its single-stream recycling program. Frederick County's recycling rate for 2012 was over 46% (according to the most recent data approved by the MD Department of the Environment). For further information about the Department of Solid Waste Management's programs, please call 301-600-2960 or visit their website at www.FrederickCountyMd.gov/WasteManagement.

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